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A MILLION FUTURE CITIZENS

A radio talk by C. B. Smith, Extension Service, broadcast Saturday, October 2, 1937 in the National 4-H Club program, National Farm and Home Hour, by 83 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

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Boys and Girls of the 4-H Clubs:

You will be interested to know that since 4-H club work was started in the United States about 25 years ago we have grown to an organization of more than 60,000 clubs, with over 100,000 local leaders and a membership of over 1,145,000 boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age. Within the past 25 years, over 5,000,000 rural boys and girls have taken part in these clubs in the United States alone and your club and each one of you are a part of this great organization.

So well have you done your work and so significant does it seem to visitors who come to this country from abroad and see what you are doing that they have gone back to their own countries in many cases and organized 4-H clubs for their own boys and girls. So, today we find 4-H clubs in China, in India, in the various countries of Europe, in Africa, and some South American countries, the Philippines and some of the other islands of the seas and each year the work is spreading into still other countries. There are probably 500,000 boys and girls enrolled today in 4-H clubs in foreign countries.

Now, what is there about 4-H club work that makes people everywhere like it and want their own boys and girls to have part in it?

Farm people like 4-H club work because it teaches youth how to do farm, home, orchard, and garden work, and many other things, in a better way, and have a good time and earn a little money perhaps in doing it. It gives you boys and girls a chance to make exhibits at community, county, State, regional, and National fairs and perhaps win some prizes and get a lot of valuable experience. It gives you a chance to go to camps and make educational trips and take part in short courses. It gives you a chance to meet together in groups at monthly meetings and learn parliamentary practices, how to conduct a meeting, make a report, act on committees, play and sing and have a good social time together. In your demonstration and group work, it teaches you the thing the whole world is so much in need of, and that is cooperation.

Farm fathers and mothers like to have their children in 4-H clubs because such children develop a broader vision of rural life and farming is made more interesting because it is made more mind-stimulating.

You members of 4-H clubs may not have realized it, but 4-H club work is distinctly educational. Educators endorse 4-H club work because it teaches each of you members how to do and see and understand things. You are educated to the extent that you can do things with your hands,-- plan and care for a garden, care for an animal, make a dress,-- to the extent that you can see significant things when you look at them -- insects in your cotton, disease in your corn or poultry -- to the extent that your mind can perceive the truth -- the relation of fertilizers

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and moisture to yields -- and to the extent that you can express the truth with your tongue or pen. And 4-H club work gives you practice in all these things and helps make you really educated people. In 4-H club work you are extending the schools out into new frontiers.

Religious organizations throughout the United States, - Catholic, Protestant, and Jew alike think highly of 4-H club work, because it stands for activities that are clean, wholesome, and constructive; because it develops a generous and kindly heart and wholesome living and a cooperative spirit.

Business men, bankers, and those engaged in commerce think highly of 4-H club work because the rural boys and girls who have been trained in club work are industrious; they know how to work; they know the virtues of thrift, sobriety, and integrity; and they want such boys and girls in their business and in their city life.

Finally, 4-H club work has come to have the support of State legislatures everywhere and of the Federal Congress, because these agencies of government have come to believe that 4-H clubs promote the best in rural life -- more science in agriculture and home making, more recreation, more social life, more rural culture -- and because 4-H clubs help build character and train for fine citizenship. And that is why we believe in 4-H club work, and that is why it is spreading out into new frontiers all over the world today.

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